



Leigh-on-Sea Town Council

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Chair: Cllr Bernard Arscott | **Vice Chair:** Cllr Carole Mulroney

Town Clerk: Clare Milligan



Minutes of the Meeting of the Community and Culture Committee

The Committee met at 7.30pm on Tuesday 10th December 2024 in the Council Chamber (Room 8), Leigh Community Centre, 71-73 Elm Road, Leigh-On- Sea, Essex, SS9 1SP.

Chair – Councillor P Gilson.

Present: Councillors Dr D Bowry, A Hart, J Lloyd, C Mulroney, O Richards and J Suttling.
In attendance: The Town Clerk – Clare Milligan, Cllr P Wexham and eight members of the public.

CC24-059 Apologies for Absence

There were no apologies.

CC24-060 Declarations of Members' Interests

Cllr C Mulroney declared that she was a Southend City Councillor. She also declared she was a member of the British Legion. There were no other declarations of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests, Other Pecuniary Interests or Registrable Non-Pecuniary Interests.

CC24-061 Public Participation

Four members of the public spoke. The questions/comments included the following:

Is the Christmas Lights event going to be an either/or re having the children's activities that were available this year.

Congratulations on the Christmas event. Some of the children didn't attend the events they were booked on. Perhaps this should be looked at for future years with perhaps introducing a £5 refundable deposit. Both Cllr J Suttling and Cllr O Richards advised that extra children were allowed into the sessions on the evening. Cllr O Richards suggested that the office contact those that didn't attend to try to find out why.

Would like to thank the Council for all their support to the Royal British Legion and the Remembrance Day service.

It was good to see Bonchurch Park being used for the VE Day event. The Council should remember the additional costs of toilets, 1st Aid and refuse collection.

Item 11 Café the Council has previously issued a license and not a lease. Can the Council lease the café as they lease the building themselves. The Clerk replied she would be talking to the solicitor and will take legal advice.

Clarification on Easter Egg Hunt that actual eggs will not be laid in the Library Gardens.

Friday night's lights were amazing and magical, and the only thing that would have been the icing on the cake would have been the shops being open for late night shopping.

Over 60's Tea Dance in February is this in addition to the normal over 60's club.

Community Transport team is this going to be part of the events schedule. Cllr C Mulroney said that yes these will encompass everything.

CC24-062 Minutes

The minutes of the Community and Culture Committee meeting held on 29th October 2024 were agreed and signed as a true record. Proposed by Cllr C Mulroney, seconded by Cllr J

Suttling and agreed unanimously.

CC24-063 Clerk's Report

- 1) PA System – The Clerk has now had two more companies come in to give her a quote for updating the system. She is now waiting for these to come in and hopes to put this on the Full Council agenda for January 2025. Cllr J Lloyd asked if a specification was given to the companies who came in. The Clerk advised that she asked the companies to give her a quote for what they felt was needed.
- 2) Disability Project at Manchester Drive Allotments – A meeting has been organised for 28th January 2025.
- 3) CCTV at Manchester Drive Allotments – This is still being investigated.
- 4) Cooker for Café – This has now been installed and working well.
- 5) Lighting in Room 4 – the Clerk is still obtaining further quotes.
- 6) Draft Budget – this went to the Finance & Governance Committee on Tuesday 3rd December 2024 and was agreed for recommendation to Full Council in January 2025.

CC24-064 Events for 2025

The Bookings and Events Officer had previously circulated the proposed events list for 2025. Cllr C Mulroney read through the list and give some further details. She also mentioned that Southend City Council will be having a City Day next year to celebrate the fact they became a city which the Council could also possibly do something for. It was agreed that whatever the Council does it was not to duplicate what else was going on but to contribute to and compliment other events as well as putting on their own. It was also felt that the Council should not only look at what Southend were doing but Castle Point Borough Council as well. It was also suggested that the Council should put some kind of survey in the Town Council magazine when this is reproduced, asking residents what they would like. The list of events was agreed. Proposed by Cllr C Mulroney, seconded by Cllr Dr D Bowry and agreed unanimously.

CC24-065 Christmas Lights 2025

A discussion took place and Cllr C Mulroney advised that she had tentatively spoken to the police and some traders and was trying to organise a meeting with them. She had also spoken to the Leigh Lions to see if they would help and said she may be able to get the 13 12 Air Cadets Band. Cllr P Wexham suggested more lights were required for the area between Rectory Grove and Pall Mall. It was agreed to have a specific working party set up. This would consist of Cllrs P Gilson and C Mulroney, the Bookings and Events Officer and the Town Clerk. This will eventually have outside stakeholders involved once the Council has established what it is that the Council will do at Christmas.

CC24-066 Mosaic at Leigh Library

The Clerk had circulated the quote for making and installing the mosaic and two workshops, one for children and one for adults which will take place in the community centre. Cllr J Lloyd asked to see the picture of what the mosaic would look like. The Clerk circulated this. Cllr J Lloyd asked if the quote for £8,000 plus VAT included the damp proof membrane and an anti-fracture fiberglass mat. The Clerk confirmed it was. The Clerk had suggested that whilst it had already been agreed the Council would contribute £5,000 from the CIL as there was quite a lot of CIL to be used could the Council pay for the whole thing and use £8,000 of CIL. It was agreed to recommend to Full Council that the Council pay for the whole project using £8,000 of CIL. Proposed by Cllr P Gilson, seconded by Cllr C Mulroney; with 6 for and 1 against the motion was passed.

CC24-067 Flea Market

Cllr C Mulroney spoke about putting on a Flea Market in February using the main hall and the two large halls upstairs in the Community Centre, charging people for having a stall. It was agreed to have the Flea Market. Proposed by Cllr C Mulroney, seconded by Cllr A Hart and agreed unanimously.

CC24-068 Old Town Buoys

The Clerk had circulated the email received from a Councillor regarding the maintenance of the two Buoys in the old town. Cllr C Mulroney advised she had contacted Mike's Boatyard for the possible cost of undertaking the repainting. Cllr P Wexham spoke about why he wanted the work undertaken making sure that the area was being kept to a high standard. It was suggested that this should be expanded to look at Strand Wharf and the remainder of Leigh-on-Sea town as a whole. This could possibly be something that could be paid for out of CIL. It was also suggested that the RSPB was contacted to clarify which birds should be the bird signs that are in Leigh as well. This will all be brought back to a future meeting.

CC24-069 Café

The Clerk explained that the process the Council had undertaken in having someone take on the Café was correct. A tender was not needed for this process. The working group had met, and the Clerk had suggested that they approach solicitors to have either a license, lease or service agreement, whichever the correct document is, drawn up and then the Council has this as a template. This was agreed by the working group and was a recommendation to the committee. A discussion took place, and it was agreed for the Clerk to contact the solicitor. Proposed by Cllr P Gilson, seconded by Cllr J Suttling and agreed unanimously.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.29pm.